

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 AID-05

HA-05 SAA-01 SSM-03 /135 W

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R 071105Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1314

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 636

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 1863

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, OAU, XA

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: ZIONISM-RACISM AND MIDDLE

EAST AT OAU AND NAM CONFERENCES

REF: STATE 163024

1. DRAWING ON TALKING POINTS TRANSMITTED REFTTEL, DCM MADE
REPRESENTATION ON ZIONISM-RACISM LINKAGE AND MIDEAST TO FOREIGN

MINISTRY ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL FOR
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS, SYLVESTRE RATANGO,
JULY 6. RATANGO CALLED IN NOTETAKER WHO MADE CAREFUL
RECORD OF CONVERSATION. ACCORDING RATANGO, GABONESE
POSITION ON ZIONISM-RACISM LINKAGE NOT YET RESOLVED. HE
THOUGH IN PAST GABONESE HAD ABSTAINED ON ISSUE BUT DID
NOT KNOW WHAT POSITION GABONESE DELEGATION TO DAKAR
ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE HAD TAKEN. RATANGO DID NOTE
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THAT AFRICAN GROUP HAD ABSTAINED ON POLITICAL RESOLUTIONS
AIMED AT ISRAEL DURING RECENT ILO CONFERENCE. HE ADDED,
HOWEVER, THAT THE ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE VIS-A-VIS SADAT'S
PEACE INITIATIVE AND ITS CONTINUED COLLABORATION WITH
SOUTH AFRICA MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR AFRICAN COUNTRIES
SUCH AS GABON WHICH WANTED TO BE HELPFUL IN
INTERNATIONAL FORUMS. CONSENSUS METHOD OF ADOPTING

RESOLUTIONS AT BOTH OAU AND NAM MEANT THAT THE ONLY WAY TO OPPOSE RESOLUTION WHICH LOOKED LIKE IT WOULD BE ADOPTED IS BY ATTACHING SPECIFIC RESERVATION. GABON HAD RESERVED POSITION OCCASIONALLY IN PAST SUCH AS ON KOREAN RESOLUTION AT 1976 COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE BUT RATANGO WONDERED ALOUD WHETHER IT WOULD BE WORTH IT IN CASE OF ZIONISM LINKAGE ISSUE. THAT SAID, RATANGO AGREED THAT GOG ALSO CONSIDERED ZIONISM-RACISM CAMPAIGN UNDESIRABLE DIVERSION FROM FOCUS ON APRTHEID WHICH IS MOST IMPORTANT RACIAL ISSUE FOR BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRIES. HE TOOK SPECIAL NOTE OF FACT THAT US WOULD BE UNABLE PARTICIPATE IN GENEVA CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IF ZIONISM-RACISM LINKAGE CARRIED OVER INTO UN SYSTEM. HE THOUGH THIS POINT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY TELLING WITH GOG IN FORMULATING ITS POSITION ON THE ISSUE.

2. WITH REGARD TO POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION ZIONISM-RACISM LINK AT KHARTOUM AND BELGRADE, RATANGO OPINED IT VIRTUALLY CERTAIN TO BE RAISED AS "CORRIDOR RESOLUTION" AT BELGRADE EVEN THOUGH NOT INCLUDED IN HAVANA NACB PREPARATORY CONFERENCE FINAL DECLARATION. HIS PERSONAL OPINION WAS THAT IT WOULD BE LESS LIKELY TO BE VOTED ON AT KHARTOUM ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SUBSTANTIATE THAT ASSUMPTION EXCEPT TO STATE THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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ARAB RADICALS SUCH AS IRAQ WOULD NOT BE PRESENT AT KHARTOUM.

3. RATANGO WAS CONSIDERABLY MORE POSITIVE ABOUT MIDDLE EAST AND EXPECIALLY EGYPTIAN PEACE INITIATIVES. HE CONSIDERED HAVANA NACB DELCARATION AS NOT SERIOUS AND ADDED THAT AS LONG AS EGYPTIANS DID NOT GIVE IMPRESSION OF BEING TOO CONCILIATORY TOWARD ISRAELIS, THEY WOULD RETAIN SUPPORT. CERTAINLY, HE SAID, SADAT HAD FULL SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT BONGO WHO HAD PUT HIMSELF ON RECORD MORE THAN ONCE. WHILE RATANGO CONSIDERED IT POSSIBLE THAT ALGERIA OR LIBYA MIGHT GET OAU TO ADOPT RESOLUTION ON MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT AT KHARTOUM, HE THOUGH EGYPTIAN SUPPORT AMONG AFRICANS SUFFICIENTLY SOLID TO AVOID CONDEMNATORY RESOLUTIONS.

4. GABONESE DELEGATION TO OAU MINISTERIAL WILL BE HEADED BY FOREIGN MINISTER MARTIN BONGO AND WILL INCLUDE PRESIDENT BONGO'S SPEICAL COUNSELOR FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS, HEAN-FELIX ADANDE.

5. GABONESE DELEGATION TO BELGRADE NAM MINISTERIAL

WILL BE HEADED BY SECRETARY OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, JEAN-BAPTISE NGOMO-OBIANG AND WILL
INCLUDE RATANGO. TIENKEN

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